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genuina, Muell. Arg. l. c. 885.) River gravel near Monterey, July 4. (1915).

HIPPOMANEÆ.

Stillingia Torreyana, Watson, Bot. Calif. ii. 72. Fields near San Miguel, State of Tamaulipas, July 30. (2071).

Stillingia Zelayensis, Muell. Arg. in Linn. xxxii. 87. ? Differs from the original description in the same features that Watson notes (Contrib. xiv. 451) in a specimen gathered by Dr. Edward Palmer on Rio Blanco, Jalisco, 1886. Hills near Monterey, June 7. (2070).

Aster cordifolius, L. and Two New Varieties.

This, the most common and abundant *Aster* of our Eastern flora, blooming everywhere profusely during the months of September and October, like others of the genus, is subject to great variation. It exhibits, however, three distinct and dominant lines of development, each of which deserves recognition. If a characteristic specimen of the first variety named below were placed beside one of the typical form, the intermediate links that connect them being unknown, it would be accepted without hesitation as a good species, which, perhaps, it is. Even where found growing together, they are readily distinguished by the practised eye.

Aster cordifolius, L., (typical).—Leaves thin, membranaceous, strongly scabrous-pubescent, serratures mostly large, sharp-pointed and spreading; cauline ones round-cordate to cordate, on naked or barely-margined petioles; uppermost ovate; panicle ample; heads of flowers very numerous, variable in size, 2 to 3 lines high; rays light blue to deep violet; disk-florets yellowish or purple (as in some other species of the genus), both kinds often in the same head.

Aster cordifolius, L., var. *LÆVIGATUS*, new var.—Leaves thickish to coriaceous, pale green, often glaucous beneath, in texture and smoothness like those of *A. lævis*, but generally supplied with a very sparse, minute, somewhat roughish pubescence, serratures more or less appressed; cauline ones cordate to oblong-

cordate, on petioles with broad or narrow winged-margins; uppermost lance-ovate to lanceolate; panicle open and loose; heads of flowers comparatively few, variable in size, but mostly larger than in the type; rays light blue.

Common in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, as well as westward and southward.

Aster cordifolius, L., var. LANCEOLATUS, new var.—Leaves deep green on both sides, thin, smooth, faintly scabrous, serratures appressed, sometimes nearly obsolete; cauline ones lance-ovate to narrowly lanceolate, tapering into a long acumination, the cordate sinus almost or quite filled up; uppermost narrower. In other respects like the preceding.

Along Chestnut Hill, Easton, Pa., in the deep shade of woods. Also collected on Staten Island by Dr. N. L. Britton and at White Plains, N. Y., by Miss McCabe.

Some of the features in these two varieties might suggest hybridization with *A. lævis*, but the frequent occurrence of the first over so wide an area, and at points where *A. lævis* does not exist, forbids the supposition.

THOS. C. PORTER.

On Elastic Stamens in Compositæ.*

In the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, 1883, I have noted that the filaments of some flowers of the thistle alliance are elastic. The stamens in the united column mature their growth before the pistil becomes fully elongated, and which, unable to push through the column, bears it upon its apex, until the downward pressure is so great that the pistil bursts through, when the elastic filaments at once draw the anthers down to their proper position on a level with the limb of the corolla. I had supposed that so obvious a behavior in the stamens of these plants and those of other Compositæ, would be matters of record,—but with the exception of what has been written on the irritable filaments (see Sachs' Text-book, pp. 787-797) no note seems to have been made. I was pleased to find, on introducing the subject before the combined British and

* Read before the Botanical Club of the A. A. A. S. Cleveland Meeting, 1888.